

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 EB-08 OMB-01 STR-07

EUR-12 SMS-01 AID-05 /142 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3783

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

/USUN NEW YORK 348

UNCLAS ASUNCION 3384

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES THE U.S.

AND THE UN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS

1. VISITING PARAGUAY AS SOUTH AFRICA'S OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S INAUGURATION, FOREIGN MINISTER FREDERICK (PIK) BOTHA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 14 IN WHICH HE CRITICIZED THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. AND THE UN IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. HE ALSO STATED THAT "WE WILL NEVER ACCEPT A SYSTEM OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE" AND SAID THAT ALL THAT THE WHITES ARE ASKING FOR IS TO GOVERN THEMSELVES.

2. REFERRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, BOTHA STATED THAT THE U.S. IS MERELY HARMING ITSELF BY ADOPTING THIS POLICY. HE CLAIMED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ATTACKS ON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR WHAT THE DEPT. CONSIDERS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ONLY A WAY TO HIDE THE U.S.'S OWN DEFECTS IN THIS AREA, E.G. A LARGE AMERICAN BLACK POPULATION WHICH CANNOT SAY IT LIVES IN A "PARADISE". HE SAID HE WOULD URGE THE U.S. TO TRY TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF THIS GROUP AS WELL AS THE INDIANS WHO HAVE BEEN DISPOSSESSED OF THEIR LANDS.

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3. BOTHA ACCUSED THE UNITED NATIONS OF ENGAGING IN AN ALMOST TOTAL WAR AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BY ITS ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE HIS GOVERNMENT, IMPOSE SANCTIONS AND INSTITUTE AN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE. ALL THIS ONLY BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICA IS TRYING TO DIVIDE ITS LAND AND POLITICAL POWER. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID SOUTH AFRICANS DOUBT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE REAL ISSUE BECAUSE THE WEST ACCEPTS

AND DOES NOT CRITICIZE THE RUSSIAN SYSTEM. INSTEAD, SOUTH AFRICA BELIEVES IT IS BEING USED AS A SACRIFICIAL LAMB IN THE SUPERPOWERS' STRUGGLE TO CONTROL AFRICA.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STRONG STATEMENTS UNDOUBTEDLY STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG SOME OF PARAGUAY'S RULING CIRCLE. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN HE SAID THAT COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CRITICIZE ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY MORE THAN SOUTH AFRICA.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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